

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237524

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT:TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON PANAM EMPLOYEES

REF: PRAGUE 2569

WARSAW FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

1. WE AGREE THAT A STRONG EXPRESSION OF OUR CONCERN
IN THE MATTER IS APPROPRIATE. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD
BASE OUR OBJECTION ON RECIPROCITY OF PRACTICE TOWARDS
EMPLOYEES AND FACILITIES, AND THAT ARGUMENT CONCERNING
THE HELSINKI PROVISIONS IN THIS CASE IS SECONDARY.
THIS ACTION APPEARS TO BE DISCRIMINATION SPECIFICALLY
AGAINST THE US, AND WE FIND SUCH HARRASSMENT
OUT OF KEEPING WITH CZECH CLAIMS THAT THEY WISH TO IMPROVE
BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. WE SUGGEST ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN RAISE THE
ISSUE DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS IN PRAGUE ALONG THE
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FOLLOWING LINES:

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR PANAMERICAN AIRLINES
OFFICE IN PRAGUE HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING SOME DIFFICULTIES

IN ITS OPERATION AND PERSONNEL; MOST RECENTLY,
SOME OF PANAM'S LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAVE HAD THEIR
PASSPORTS RECALLED, AND NO EXPLANATION HAS BEEN
GIVEN FOR THE ACTION.

--WE NOTE THAT ARTICLE SEVEN OF THE AIR TRANSPORT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES PROVIDES FOR
BOTH OUR AIRLINES TO RECEIVE A FAIR AND EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE IN THE HOST COUNTRY. PANAM'S
COUNTERPART, CSA, HAS NOT BEEN HANDICAPPED IN ITS
OPERATION IN THE US; INDEED, WE HAVE RECENTLY
ADJUSTED OUR REGULATIONS TO FACILITATE VISA RENEWAL
FOR CSA EMPLOYEES.

--PANAM IS AMERICA'S ONLY PERMANENT BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WE WOULD HOPE THAT
CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S INTEREST IN IMPROVING BILATERAL
RELATIONS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE TREATMENT PANAM
RECEIVES FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES.
KISSINGER

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